

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HA

SUBJECT: TEXTILES - HAITIAN REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN 1977
--- QUOTA FOR HOSIERY

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. ON JAN. 17, 1977, HAITIAN AMBASSADOR SALOMON, ACCOMPANIED BY COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR GERVAIS, CALLED ON HAITI DESK TO REQUEST INCREASE IN 1977 QUOTA FOR HOSIERY (CAT. 215) FROM 700,000 SQUARE YARDS EQUIVALENT (SYE) TO AN AMOUNT APPROACHING 7 MILLION SYE. SALOMON WAS TOLD THAT REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED BUT THAT AMOUNT REQUESTED SEEMED
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QUITE LARGE AND NO PROMISES COULD BE MADE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE LEFT BY AMBASSADOR SALOMON (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING AND CLOSING OMITTED):
BEGIN QUOTE

DURING THE AGREEMENT FIRST YEAR 1976, ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN

MADE, AS REQUESTED BY THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT, ON THE DATES OF SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14 AND NOVEMBER 17, 1976 ON CATEGORIES 238, 54, 55, 215, 217 AND 231, BUT REQUEST MADE IN EARLY DECEMBER FOR FURTHER ADJUSTMENT OF EXPORTS ON CATEGORY 215, UNDER EMBARGO AT U.S. CUSTOMS AT THAT TIME, COULD NOT BE HONORED. THE ANSWER WAS THAT THE YEAR WAS TOO ADVANCED FOR ANY ADJUSTMENT TO BE CONSIDERED.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT YEAR 1977, AFTER THE FIRST WITHDRAWALS FROM U.S. CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE OF THE TEXTILE ON EMBARGO, THE LIMIT ALLOWED ON EXPORT OF CATEGORY 215 WAS COMPLETELY UTILISED.

THE ROOT OF THESE DIFFICULTIES LAY IN THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO RELATION BETWEEN THE NORMAL PRODUCTION OF THE HOSIERY FACTORY IN HAITI, OWN BY AMERICAN INTEREST, WHICH IS SEVEN MILLION SQUARE YARDS AND THE LIMIT OF EXPORTS ALLOWED IN THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT WHICH IS 700,000 SQUARE YARDS UNDER THIS CATEGORY.

THEREFORE THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE PROPER AGENCY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER IN WHAT WAYS - MAY BE BY TRANSFER AND SWITCH WITH THE LESS EXPORTED CATEGORIES OF THE GROUP - THE LIMIT OF EXPORT OF CATEGORY 215 COULD BE RAISED TO APPROACH SEVEN MILLION YARDS.

THE EMBASSY OF HAITI URGE EARNESTLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER THAT FAILURE TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE SOLUTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THIS PROBLEM COULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO AMERICAN AS WELL AS TO HAITIAN INTERESTS INVOLVED IN THAT FIELD.

THE AMERICAN OWNERS AND CLIENTS OF THE HOSIERY PLANT ARE CONSIDERING ALREADY, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ADEQUATE QUOTA, TO SHIFT THEIR PRODUCTION FACILITIES TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, LEAVING HAITI WITH AN OUTSTANDING JOB DEFICIT AND A TRAGIC SITUATION FOR HUNDRED POOR FAMILIES.

END QUOTE.

3. COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS WILL PROBABLY BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF HAITIAN REQUEST DURING WEEK OF JAN. 24.
HABIB

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